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Applicants note U.S. Patent No. 5,448,273 (Klein et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,880,751 (Nishikori et al.) cited in the foreign search report were previously cited in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on July 31, 2001, which was considered by the Examiner on August 1, 2001.


STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Applicants further submit that each item of information in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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